

WHAT IS MAN?
Like the falling of a star,
Or the flight of eagle's ear,
Or like the fresh spring's early hue,
Or silver drops of morning dew,
Or like a wind that chafes the flood,
Or bubbles which on water stood—
Even such is man, whose borrowed light
Is straight called in and paid to night,
The wind blows out, the bubble dies,
The spring entombed in autumn lies,
The dew dried up, the star is shot,
The flight is past—and man forgot.



THE FREE TRADER.

Wenver & Hise, Editors.

Ottawa, Ill., Friday, December 10, 1841.

State Convention—Alteration of the Constitution.

The following sentiment was given by Gov. Carlin at a public dinner at Chicago, on the occasion of his late visit to that city:

By Gov. Carlin.—NO CONVENTION for three reasons—first, because it is unneeded; second, because there is no surplus in the Treasury to pay for it; and third, because the required amount of its cost should be applied to the prosecution of the Canal.

With due respect to the views and opinions of Gov. Carlin respecting the proposed State Convention for the alteration of our Constitution, we cannot coincide with him on this important subject.

We have always viewed the Revolution adopted by the last legislature for the call of this Convention, as just and proper, and as one of the few commendable acts of that never-to-be-forgotten august assembly. We may be mistaken in our views on the subject, but we have seen nothing yet to alter them, notwithstanding the Governor's reasons are entitled to respect and the serious consideration of every man within the limits of this State. The present financial affairs of the State, together with the prosecution of the canal, are subjects which engross much attention in the public mind, and to remedy the first and efficiently prosecute the last, is the desire of every man who values the true interest of the State. But the question is, whether the Constitution of this State, (which has been framed and adopted more than twenty years since, when the country was sparsely settled and the wants of the people but little known,) is not materially defective in many of its important provisions? And whether those defects are not of sufficient importance to overbalance every consideration entertained and thus promulgated by the Governor?

The question may, with propriety be asked, whether or not many of the evils under which the State at present labors, are not partly attributable to the defects of the present Constitution? To us it appears to be the case, and nothing has more fully demonstrated it, than the proceedings of the last and antecedent legislatures. When men elected to offices of trust and honor use their powers for individual gain—when they make a business affair of dollars and cents of the people's suffrages, and usurp the delegated authority of the people for selfish ends, and do it too by virtue of the Constitution and in the face of the people, it is time that the people speak and adopt a remedy. We may have an overflowing treasury, and our State may be traversed in every direction by roads and canals, but of what value would they be if the fountain of legislation is impure and infected by demagogues?

There are many other objections to the present Constitution, to us equally important, which we may refer to hereafter. We view the subject of sufficient importance to overbalance every consideration of a party nature, and shall advocate the measure from a full and thorough conviction of its absolute necessity for the welfare and prosperity of our State.

Communications sent to this office for publication, must be accompanied with the author's name. We cannot, in justice to ourselves, deviate from this rule.

"Illinois Sentinel."

The publication of the above named paper at Vandalia has been resumed, by Messrs. McDONALD & ROBERTS. The appearance of the first No. is creditable to the publishers, in a mechanical point of view; and the editorial department evinces talent of the highest order. The gentleman under whose charge the Sentinel is placed, are favorably known to the Democracy of this State, and from their long connection with the Press, are well calculated to render the Sentinel one of the most useful and influential journals in the West. Success, gentlemen! Give us your friend Roberts, and may no local jealousies mar the harmony of the democratic phalanx.

Reproduction.

The Mississippi papers state that the majority for the anti-bond paying party is very large. One paper adds: "Mississippi, hitherto proud and glorious, having failed in her faith, violated her honor, and trampled her fair fame under foot, will be scorned by her sisters, and be forever damned by the world, as the faithless State of the Republic."

Thanksgiving.

We observe by our exchange papers in several of the States, that days of Thanksgiving and Prayer have been observed in many of them. The custom had its origin in the New England States, and is now observed in all the middle States, portion of the Southern, and in two, at least, of the Western. The origin of this custom is thus given by Cotton Mather:

"One spring, many years after the landing of the Pilgrims, a long continued drought alarmed the colonists with the prospect that their crops would fail. In this extremity a day of 'Fasting and Prayer,' to implore the mercy of Heaven, was ordained by the magistrates of the colony. Not long after they had assembled, and while the whole population were on their knees, a dark cloud

slowly rolled up, and poured upon the parched earth a most copious rain. In its former year did their harvest prove so abundant, and in November following, a day of 'Thanksgiving' was appointed, which has ever since been annually observed."

Continuation of the "Black List" shortly.

English Designs on Cuba.

The St. Louis Gazette says: "The story which has been travelling the rounds of the American press, that England intends to lay hands on Cuba, probably grows out of some information of the British Government, that they shall immediately insist upon a fulfillment by Spain of her treaty stipulations respecting the slave trade."

"In 1817, Spain engaged by the treaty to suppress the slave trade throughout its dominions; and England in consideration thereof paid Spain nearly two millions of dollars. Not a month, and hardly a week, has elapsed since the execution of that treaty, in which Spain has not violated it."

"Spain should be made to observe the treaty—or refund to England the sum paid her, with interest. The fact is the less that can be done, viewing the transaction with a merely mercenary eye. But when civilized nations have set a bad example on the slave trade—or when they do not cease denouncing it as a gross crime against justice and humanity, Spain should neither be upheld nor countenance in the commission of it, or against the face of a solemn treaty."

President's message next week—probably.

It is reported that the Col. of the Chicago Democrat has been presented with several flattering favors from Fanny Blake, the dancer. The portrait of her is in the hands of a collector in his possession? Gosh!—all a crowd!

New England Churches.—One of the clergies of the Cleveland (Ohio) Gazette, is written from Massachusetts some "pencillings by the way." In his last letter, he remarks with great felicity, that "in passing through this State the traveler is seldom out of the sight of a mad-dog, and on a Sabbath morn. upon the hills and in the valleys, 'the sound of the church-going bell' is music to his ear. From the summit of Mount H. 3,000 churches may be seen. This is a land of 'edified houses, colleges and churches. They are guides to knowledge—to virtue—and to heaven. They are the true and eternal society—and stability and integrity to our Government and its institutions. God grant them to Ohio!"

Mayor of Boston.—Nathaniel Greene, Esq., for the last twelve years the popular Postmaster of Boston, has been nominated for Mayor of that city, by the democratic party. The Wings have nominated Jonathan Chapman, Esq.

Wages of Stealing.—The Chicago Democrat says: "Postponing payment of newspaper accounts so as to swell them off under the provisions of the bankrupt act upon the first of February next."

U. S. Bank.—It is said that the Marble Palace in Philadelphia will be sold to the Government for a Custom House, the financiers having no further use for it.

Bankers.—There is not a single solvent Bank in Buffalo, N. Y. The late wheat speculation has caused their insolvency. The Rochester banks are said to be but little better.

Missouri State Prison Barred.—The State Prison of Missouri, at Jefferson, was destroyed by fire on the 27th ult. The prisoners were released from the cells and confined in the yard, and where guarded by the citizens. The loss to the State will amount to about \$8,000—to individuals about \$10,000. The cells and Warden's house were saved. The fire originated in one of the work shops, and was not discovered by the guard till too late for extinguishment.

Death in the Pulpit.—The Rev. Frederick Tuckerman, while preaching at Manchester, N. Y., on Sunday the 14th ult., fell down in the pulpit and expired. His disease was probably one of the heart. Mr. T. was formerly a preacher among the Methodists, but for several years has been connected with the Presbyterian denomination.

Chinese Ransom.—It is now said that the six millions ransom money paid by China to England, the large portion turns out to be bad silver. Sar'd 'em right!

The Half-reasoning Animal—by Water and by Fire.—The Richmond Enquirer says: "The sagacity of the Mammoth Elephant, (who is attached to the Menagerie and Circus) has displayed itself during his late visit to Richmond and Petersburg. Whilst the cavalcade was crossing the bridge over the James River, the Elephant quietly placed his foot upon its floor, but not satisfied with the shaking of the timbers, he withdrew from it, and immediately descended to the river, for the purpose of swimming across. On a sign, however, from his rider, he stopped—took him up with his proboscis, placed him on his neck, and then swam across the river. At Petersburg, he was chained with one leg to a post, in Powell's stable, which was consumed by fire. As soon as the flames began to spread, the animal finding his quarters most uncomfortable, exerted his enormous strength, pulled up the post which had been rammed down in very hard ground, released himself from 'Juno's vile,' walked out of the stable to a respectful distance, and then quietly turned round to witness the progress of the conflagration."

A Negro Legislator.—We learn from the Boston Daily Mail, says the St. Louis Pennant, that a very respectable black joke was played off in Townsend, Mass., at the late State election. The three parties in that town, whigs, democrats and abolitionists, are equally divided. In Massachusetts, a majority of all the votes is necessary to elect.—The whigs and democrats in vain tried to persuade the third party to withdraw their nomination. They even proposed to unite with them upon a man who should represent either whig and abolition principles, or democracy and abolitionism. But no, the abolitionists must have their own man, or they would prevent a choice.

Two or three balladines were held without success. The Democrats and whigs, however, being seated at the chimney of their abolition brethren, determined to give them a full-dressed abolition without mistake. These women came to an understanding upon the subject, and called an old negro, and, according to the plan in a body, they all sang a representative Irish Massachusetts legislature by an overwhelming majority! The abolitionists of course stuck to their own ticket, and in fact voted against him. This was considered a very good joke upon the friends of the whigs. The old negro had consented to be nominated, and agreed to take his seat as a member, if elected—there being no qualification on account of color. But it seems the joke is not quite perfect. The poll-books kept open last night beyond the legal time, and before the election is held. But another meeting is to be held immediately, and the abolitionists still hold out, the old negro will be elected, sure as fate.

Spain Annexed.—Santa Anna is now said to be thoroughly convinced as Dictator in Mexico. It is also reported that he will immediately march into the Texas territory with an army of 10,000 men.

Reading Paraphrase.—The Board of Missions Ohio, which proposes to pay special for its own bills, recently sent \$100,000 in specie to New York.

The Harbinger.—Charles F. Mitchell has been captured in New York. The plea of insanity could not save him.

A Letter from President Tyler.

Reading his late and highly honorable committee of President Tyler's personal and judicial friends addressed to him a written invitation to preside at a public dinner, in celebration of their late re-elected law and support for him, both as a man and a politician. The President's reply is as follows: "If there still is anywhere a lingering hope that the President will accept a bank in any shape or form, this letter, we think, is sufficient to extinguish it forever."

CHAS. F. MITCHELL, New York, 20th Nov. 1841.

Gentlemen.—Few things would afford me more pleasure than to meet my friends and old constituents of this county at the festive board, in pursuance of your polite invitation; but the necessity which exists for my speedy return to the seat of Government, places it out of my power to do so. I can, however, do no less than return to you and those you represent, my grateful thanks for the kind sentiments of regard and confidence, which you have been pleased to express towards me. Shall I not be justified by the people of this ancient county, in the declaration, that when, as long ago as twenty-five years, they did me the honor to confer their almost unanimous suffrages upon me, as their Representative in Congress, the political principles which I then avowed, have been the same, which, since my accession to the Presidency, I have dared to vindicate and maintain, at the expense of the bitterest denunciations which have ever before assailed a public functionary.

The same opinions as to the power of Congress to charter a National Bank, which I then avowed in the presence of your fathers, and of many who still survive among you, and which, as your representative, I strenuously urged in 1819, are still maintained with abiding and undiminished conviction. I was then sustained by the people of this district, with almost entire unanimity, and I, therefore, take leave to say, that if any of them are converts to new opinions, they might, at least, have granted to me, as the Chief Magistrate, bound by oath to support the Constitution, the benefits of the new lights of reason which have been shed upon them, before they unite with others, in a spirit of unqualified denunciation. What would they have me do? Would they have me sacrifice the consistency of my past life for party ends? Or, what is of more importance, both morally and politically, would they require of the Chief Magistrate of this glorious Union, to surrender all claims to their respect, by violating his oath of office, in order to gratify the Moloch of party? If they would have so great a sacrifice, then I am proud to say, they will not receive it at my hands. I ensure no man for his opinion on this or any other subject—but, while I award to him the right to think for himself, should he not exempt me from his denunciations because I cannot think as he does?

I beg you to be assured, gentlemen, that the incentives to which I have been subjected, have, in no degree disturbed my equanimity. Amid the torrents of abuse, no matter by what motives dictated, which have been uttered against me, "my pulse has kept as healthful music" as if nothing had occurred. The light reflected from burning offices has only served to render the path of duty more plain. In that path I shall walk, my confidence being placed in the patriotism, discernment, and intelligence of the American people, whose interests are always best sustained by a firm observance of Constitutional requirements.

I tender you, individually, assurances of great personal regard.

JOHN TYLER.

To Edward G. Crump, George Williamson, John G. Crump, William R. C. Douglass, and Chesley Jones, Committee.

Sparkling Wit.—"I have a spark in my eye," said a lady in the cars. The jule was looking straight forward at a spruce young gentleman sitting opposite to her.

Foreign News.
By the Steamship Calcutta.
The steamship Calcutta arrived at Liverpool the 10th ult., in fourteen days from Liverpool. A few looks out at half past ten o'clock, on Saturday night, the 9th of October, in London, at the Round Tower. The alarm was immediately given, and the flames, however, notwithstanding the exertions of all present, continued to spread, and soon reached the roof of the Army, nearest adjoining the Round Tower. Every effort that human power could achieve was made to in order to save this magnificent and stupendous structure; the flames, however, proceeded with a few whole balls, and soon advanced upon the building, which, with nearly all its contents, was totally destroyed—upwards of \$200,000 worth of arms, besides an innumerable quantity of trappings, relics, &c. At midnight the conflagration had reached the highest magnitude, and subsequently reached the Clock Tower, which fell with a most tremendous crash. There were contained for the Jewel Tower, which was taken from the Round Tower, and the valuable diamonds, regalia, &c. were removed. At 5 o'clock on Sunday morning, the fire abated in fury. The value of the property destroyed, is estimated at one million pounds sterling. It is supposed that this disastrous fire was the result of negligence and caused by the over-heating of some furnaces adjoining the Army office.

The London newspapers generally express their satisfaction at the intelligence of the acquisition of the Jewel Tower, and the public feeling of things.

The greatest distress still prevails in every part of Great Britain.

Several large meetings have been held in Manchester, London and other places, by the Chartist. The trade in Wheat has maintained a very firm tone at the leading provincial markets held during the week, and a further rise of 1s. per quarter has taken place in the value of the article at several of the provincial towns. Foreign Wheat is in per quarter dearer. The millers have put the top price of flour to 10s. which has caused a better sale for ship flour, at an advance of 1s. per sack.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.
The United States and England, or Free Trade and Monopoly.

At a late public meeting in Liverpool, one of the speakers, just then returned from the United States, presented a graphic description of the state of society in the two countries, so far as he had observed them. He told his hearers that in the West, a man who could do nothing but dig, could earn a dollar and a half a day, and obtain board and lodging for two dollars and a half per week. The weekly profit, six dollars and a half, must have appeared quite liberal to some of his suffering hearers, who are compelled to maintain families upon twenty-five cents daily. After contrasting the price of flour in New Orleans, 16 shillings, or four dollars, with the price in Liverpool, 39 shillings, or \$9 75, he introduced his hearers to the manufactures of Lowell. Here he found a city of 25,000 inhabitants, not in existence fifteen years. Here he saw capital invested in mills, amounting to \$10,000,000. Here he saw the female "operatives" turn out, and could not distinguish them from "young ladies" in England; for, among their other personal arrangements, "they carried parasols." He found their wages to be from \$2 50 to \$1 50 per week, clear of board and lodging. He arrived in Liverpool on the 12th day after leaving Boston; and the first sight which he saw in Liverpool "was a woman picking up dung in the streets."

Here is a matter for consideration; and to those disposed to investigate, and to trace effects to causes, it speaks volumes. American women who labor with their hands for subsistence, "dress like young ladies!" and English women who labor with their hands for subsistence, "pick up dung in the streets." Had this traveler talked with any of these American "operatives," or laborers, he would have found that they not only dressed like "young ladies," but had the opinions, principles, sentiments, feelings, and accomplishments of "young ladies." He would have found that in the virtues which dignify the human character, and the delicacies and refinements which adorn the female character, they were superior to the wives and daughters of half the "nobility and gentry" of his own country. And did he find an American woman, a native American, "picking up dung in the streets" in any part of the United States? No! Such a sight has never been seen. He may travel over the whole country for years, without finding a single American white woman engaged in any employment, which for its severity or other unpleasant characteristics, is more appropriate to the rougher sex. We admit that, in the slave States, he will find African women engaged in field labors; and in the free States, he will sometimes find foreign women engaged in labors which American women would repudiate. But, while thoroughly opposed to slavery in principle and detail, we may say, in mere justice to slaveholders, that justice which we will deny to none, that these very field working female slaves are better fed, better clothed, and better lodged, than multitudes of "free operatives" in English manufactures, or "free cultivators" on Irish estates. And of the foreign women occasionally seen among us in the employments of men, we may say that they have not yet relinquished the habits of their native countries, and that their foreign husbands and fathers have not yet learned that re-

spect for woman which is a distinguishing trait of a noble, a beautiful trait of American character, and which is displayed, among other modes, in shielding them from labor inappropriate to their sex. But while one English traveler found no woman in our country engaged in "picking up dung in the streets," we are equally confident that he found no female "operatives" in the English mills or on Irish estates, "dressed like young ladies." There he could find nothing but toil and privation, and suffering in the "operative," and overgrown wealth and Asiatic luxury in the employer.

Such is the difference. What are its causes? High tariffs for protection, paper money, and enormous taxation; the very evils which English brokers and their American agents would impose upon this country. The wealthy proprietors of manufacturing corporations insist that high tariffs protect labor. Then why is labor so badly rewarded in England, where tariffs are higher than in any other country, and where the object of Government for centuries, has been to force manufacturing? If the assertion be true, protection ought to produce the greatest degree of such result where it is most extensively furnished. But these political economists are wrong. High tariffs protect employers, but ultimately injure laborers. They give great profits to manufacturing, tempt capitalists into it, found corporations or associations of wealth, and make the business of manufacturing the monopoly of the few. At the commencement of the system, labor is well paid, because it is scarce.—But the system advances, an overgrown population of "mere operatives" is created, which is entirely at the mercy of the employers. If the latter combine to reduce wages, the only remedy of the former is a combination to strike. And who can hold out longest in this contest? The wealthy owners, who can live upon their resources while their mills are stopped, or the poor "operatives," who depend on daily toil for daily bread? Besides, if the laws are made by the wealthy employers, as they always have been in England, and sometimes in this country, they can punish the combinations of the poor, but authorize those of the rich. If any one of these suggestions be denied, we refer for plenary proof to England, where the system is in full operation, and where it has created a population of nabobs and slaves. But we shall be told that our manufactures cannot flourish without high protection. Then let them perish, sooner than reduce us to the condition of England, where the extremes of luxury and privation are in continual contact. But we deny the position. Have our manufactures declined since the compromise? They are now more extensive than ever, and our merchants can send them to foreign markets in successful competition against those of England, which are furnished with counterfeit American marks as a measure of protection. Besides, we can refer to some of the oldest manufacturers of Massachusetts, who always protested against higher tariffs than that of 1815. They foresaw the mischiefs of high tariffs. They saw that high tariffs would create companies without capital, who would establish banks to procure capital, which would enhance all prices and produce overtrading. They knew that without protection and paper expansion, they could not conduct a profitable business in manufacturing. Were they right? Let the history of the last twenty-five years answer the question.

But besides high tariffs as a fertile cause of English misery, we may mention paper money. In no country, excepting our own, has the paper system endured longer and been pushed farther than in England. It has occasionally wrought its mischiefs in Russia and Austria; but in England, where individual enterprise is less restrained by law than in these two despoticisms, it has produced a practical despotism of gigantic and withering power. All banking promotes monopolies; and in no part of the world so much as in England, has the associated capital, real or fictitious, of the few, so thoroughly monopolized the labor of the many. Great employers, really not worth a dollar, can command millions by bank credit, and profit by the labor of thousands, while the poor laborer can get no credit, but must buy for cash; and what is the credit system to him but a curse, if it enhances the prices of all that the laborer wants, and enables the employer to reduce his wages at pleasure? Such is the effect of the paper credit system in all countries. It makes the rich richer, the poor poorer; it furnishes capital to the employer, and imposes burdens upon the laborer. The mischiefs of high taxation are too obvious to need any exposition.

Capital Punishment—Being kissed to death by a beautiful girl.—Pittsb. Chron.

We know a chap so temperate that he threatens to cut his toes off the next time they get corned.

"Now Tibe," says Pete, "you know that I know that I don't know what you know, but I know that you know I know what you don't know."

"I know that," says Tibe.

Why is a stick of candy like a horse? Because the more you lick it the faster it goes.

From the (Pennsylvania) Miltonian.
"I Can't Afford It."
"I can't afford to take a newspaper," was the answer which we received a few days ago, from a wealthy farmer of our neighborhood, when asked to subscribe for our paper. He was the father of a large family, and from his answer we were induced to believe that no newspaper ever entered the walls of his dwelling, and that himself and family were utterly ignorant of the many interesting events now transpiring in the world; and what is worse, likely to remain so; unless indeed he belonged to that class of readers, the pest of their neighbors and the abhorrence of printers, called borrowers. Not afford to take a newspaper! and yet this individual could spend his hundreds to adorn the persons of his children and make them appear respectable, whilst the mind was entirely neglected. Can't afford to take a newspaper! What does this mean? It means in plain English this, I cannot afford to inform myself or give my family the means of information or instruction. I prefer ignorance to intelligence—and rather than spend my money would see my family become dull, stupid dolts—despised by themselves and ridiculed by all. Money before knowledge is the language of those, who being able to pay, offer the excuse referred to in the commencement of this article. But newspaper borrowers! what shall we say of them?

Will you subscribe for our paper? Oh, no, I believe not, I get my neighbor A's paper every week and that will do for me! Such answers we have frequently received, and an answer containing more double refined meanness could not be found. But aside from the meanness of reading a borrowed newspaper, when the individual could well afford to take one for himself, it is plainly dishonest, "that burglary." You deprive your neighbor of his rights, which he has paid for with his own money, and prevent his family from obtaining the information, always conveyed through the public press. Will you say that your neighbor has already read it and gave it cheerfully. That may be true, and yet the case is not altered. A newspaper is useful for reference, as well as for present reading; and then your neighbor has too much politeness to refuse your request, knowing, that one who is mean enough to make the request—to borrow, would be just mean enough to resent a refusal. Besides, the printer has his rights, which are grossly violated by this system of borrowing—he is in fact robbed and spoiled. He expends his time, labor, talents, and money on his paper, for the gratification of his subscribers, and the support of his family, and yet the reward comes not, because, forsooth, many of his readers are borrowers. Now we ask all such, is it fair? is it honest? Do you give to the printer any value for what you receive? And after you have read a borrowed newspaper, does your conscience approve the deed? If it does not, and if you are now satisfied that you have injured your neighbor, and cheated the printer by being a borrower, go and subscribe at once for a newspaper; and when a friend calls to borrow yours, tell him to "go and do likewise."

The Distribution Bill.

The following is an extract from a speech of Senator BROWN, delivered at the late extra session of Congress—the final passage of the distribution bill pending:

"I scorn the bill. I scorn its vaunted popularity. I detest it. Nor can I conceive of an object more pitiable and contemptible than that of the demagogue's haranguing for votes, and exhibiting his tables of dollars and acres, in order to show each voter, or each state, how much money they will be able to obtain from the Treasury by this Land Bill if passed. Such haranguing, and such exhibition, is the address of impudence and knavery to supposed ignorance, meanness, and folly. It is treating the people as if they were penny wise and pound foolish; and still more mean than foolish. Why the land revenue, after deducting the expenses, if fairly divided among the people, would not exceed ninepence a head per annum; if fairly divided among the States it would not supersede above ninepence per annum of taxation upon the units of the population. The day for land sales has gone by. The sales for this year (1841) do not exceed a million and a half of dollars, which would not leave more than a million for distribution,—which among sixteen millions of people, would be just four pence half penny Virginia money per head—a tip in New York and a picaune in Louisiana! At two millions it would be ninepence in Virginia per head, equivalent to a levy in New York, and a bit in Louisiana!—precisely the amount which, in specie times, a gentleman gives to a negro boy for holding his horse a minute at the door. And for this miserable dole—this insignificant subdivision of a shilling—a York shilling—can the demagogue suppose that the people are base enough to violate their Constitution, mean enough to surrender the defeat of their country, and awfully enough to be taxed on their coffee, tea, salt, sugar, molasses, coats, hats, blankets, shoes, shirts, and every article of comfort, decency or necessity, which they eat, drink or wear, or on which they stand, sleep, sit or lie?"

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